

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

STAT

Executive Secretary

11 Jan 85

Date

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I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN THE ATTACHED
MATERIAL. IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME

AT
(202) 224-9652

OTTO BOS
PRESS SECRETARY
SENATOR PETE WILSON

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85- 110

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 19, 1984

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

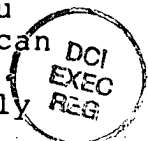
Dear Mr. President:

Again my congratulations upon your deserved landslide re-election. Contrary to the conventional wisdom of pundits and the wishful thinking of the opposition, you won not only an overwhelming personal victory but also an overwhelming public endorsement of your policies.

Any fair assessment of you personally and of your administration must acknowledge the sincerity and intensity of your personal commitment to realistic, responsible, and stabilizing arms control. Clearly the American people found quite convincing your stated determination to pursue arms control negotiations as the first priority of your second term, and thus the importance which you personally place upon the resumption of negotiations with the Soviets.

But to realize true progress that will in fact make the world safer will require that we manifest not only genuine desire to reduce arms, but also a straight-forward, tough-minded insistence upon bilateralism. And to achieve credibility at the bargaining table with the Soviets requires that the American people share not only your desire for arms reduction but also your understanding and conviction as to how modernization of our strategic forces contributes both to present deterrence and to prospective arms reduction. Unfortunately, I believe that public understanding of the goals of strategic force modernization and the critical role it plays in achieving the goal of peace has eroded. Too many confuse modernization with arms escalation and altogether misperceive its purpose.

It is essential that they gain a proper understanding of America's strategy for peace, Mr. President. And you and you alone possess the ability and opportunity to bring the American people the clear understanding to which they are entitled. You have performed this vital function before. I respectfully suggest that it is imperative that you do so again, and very soon.



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Regrettably your policies are under attack. Whether your critics proceed from misapprehension or simply choose to misrepresent your policy, it is vital that the people hear from you a clear statement of America's true purposes in strategic modernization.

In the fall of 1981, you announced to the nation a needed plan to revitalize our strategic forces to allow America to regain the ability to keep the world at peace well into the next century. You stated the stark truth that during the preceding decade, our security had been neglected and seriously weakened, especially our strategic nuclear forces, to a degree that threatened the very foundation of our strategy for deterring attacks or threats against ourselves or our allies.

Your plan to remedy this destabilizing imbalance was the right plan for America then -- a plan offering genuine hope for the attainment of real arms reductions and enhanced strategic stability. The wisdom and necessity of your program has been borne out by events of the last four years and overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of the United States this year.

But much has happened since you introduced your plan almost four years ago:

First, the Soviet Union has continued its unprecedented arms build-up and modernized its arsenal in ways that threaten the stability of nuclear deterrence. Perhaps most disheartening has been the pattern of deliberate and cynical violations of existing treaty obligations by the Soviets, even as they have urged the United States to enter into new obligations.

Second, Mr. President, our own technology has changed dramatically, occasioning the need to update your plan. For example, strategic defensive technology was barely alluded to in your original plan. Now, the ascendancy of defensive technology has drastically altered the strategic perspective giving rise to the hope you so eloquently articulated (almost two years after your 1981 plan had been crafted) that we might save lives rather than avenge them. Advances, too, in offensive technologies, especially in missile accuracy, as well as in information processing, create opportunities for reducing our exclusive reliance on massive retaliation strategies for credible deterrence.

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Third, Congress has made substantial adjustments to your original plan that have so prejudiced specific elements of our modernization as to jeopardize the credibility of the triad as a strategic deterrent.

Mr. President, it is a logical and natural time to review and reassess your program. It is the right time for you to communicate to the nation again your aims and objectives and your program for meeting the challenges that face us over the next four years and beyond in our relentless quest of peace and security. Specifically, I urge you to speak directly to the American people and explain how the Strategic Defense Initiative relates to our offensive modernization program. They need to understand the objectives of this program both for the short and the long-term. They need to understand how these defensive technologies relate to offensive arms control and to treaties, existing and proposed.

And do you not agree that there is a need as well for you to address the status of our land-based deterrent? Four years ago you spoke of a window of vulnerability and a strategy to bridge the gap. Bearing in mind changes in technology and congressional action, your critics will demand to know if this strategy is still viable. They will remind you that you also spoke of alternative basing plans for the Peacekeeper, plans that would mature before 1984. They will press you to outline these plans. In short, Mr. President, in anticipating rather than responding to these critics, I am convinced that you will effectively diffuse much of the opposition and enlist broad popular support for our strategy in Geneva.

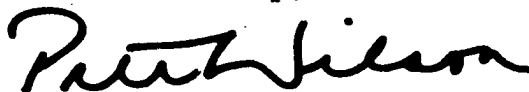
Mr. President, I urge you to appeal directly to the people who gave a clear and overwhelming mandate to your policies and your leadership on November 6. A major, nationally televised address to the American people -- before Secretary Shultz goes to Geneva -- will substantially strengthen the Secretary's hand there, and yours, Mr. President, with the Congress. Your direct appeal can greatly shape popular response, which can in turn overcome those partisan considerations prompting the House leadership to begrudge or deny you the mandate conferred upon you by the voters.

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Your hope for peace on earth and goodwill toward men is not a seasonal impulse but a deeply felt aspiration for mankind. Let me respectfully suggest that for your aspiration to become reality (and the lasting major achievement of an already truly distinguished and historic administration) urgently requires that again, as in 1981, the vital need for strategic modernization be publicly articulated with the clarity of vision and the strength of peaceful purpose which you alone can provide. The American people must and will understand and support our need to modernize in the cause of deterrence and peace, but to gain their confidence and to galvanize their will requires your personal restatement of the case -- now.

Success to you in this most important of all causes and every good wish to you and Nancy for a very Merry Christmas and a truly historic New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pete Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

PETE WILSON